

Gen. Chas. T. Cates Announces For United States Senator and Makes the Issue Clear

Says if His Candidacy is Embarassing to the President or if for Any Reason President Wilson Desires the Return of Senator Shields, the Chief Executive has but to Speak and He Will no Longer be an Aspirant.

Takes Strong Ground Against Hampering of the Chief Executive by Legislative Branch of the Government — Universal Military Training Discussed. Conservation of Water-Power of the Country an Important Issue and no Bill Should Be Passed Tending to Lodge These Rights in the Hands of Private Monopoly, as Has Been Proposed—Flood Protection at Expense of Government Favored—Eloquently Appeals to the People to Not Criticise the Administration, but to Uphold Its Hands in This Critical Hour to the End That Victory May More Quickly Come.

Gen. Chas. T. Cates, Jr., former distinguished attorney-general of Tennessee, has made formal announcement of his candidacy for the democratic nomination for United States senator.

Gen. Cates briefly touches upon matters of public concern at this time and will later discuss issues and problems of government now before and to be before the people of the country.

Some of the daily newspapers of Tennessee have been putting forth the argument that the return of Senator Shields is necessary that he may be there to uphold the hands of the President in the conduct of the war. Gen. Cates poses at the very outset to cease the prosecution of his candidacy in the event President Wilson deems the presence of Senator Shields necessary as desired in preference to that of another at this time. He states that he desires no preferment at the risk to country.

The announcement is replete with matters of interest to Tennesseans and is well worth the reading.

The announcement in full follows: "The activity of others and the wide-spread rumor sedulously circulated to the effect that I will not be a candidate seems to render necessary, thus early, the announcement of my purpose to seek the democratic nomination for United States senator in the general primary election next August.

"During these times, when the heroic consideration of our people is fixed upon far graver matters arising out of the worldwide war, I have been most reluctant to bring to their attention any semblance of personal aspiration, but I am not insensible or indifferent to the claims upon me of democrats from all sections of our state, and animated by the desire to give the best in me to the service of our country and to render loyal and effective support to our great chief executive in this time of our country's peril, I shall ask in due season a commission from you to go before all of the voters of Tennessee as your candidate for United States senator.

ANSWER TO PROPAGANDA

"It is not intended at this time and in this way to submit for any consideration any matter of public concern, but to state briefly and to the point the reasons impelling me to ask and the grounds upon which I ask your support, but before briefly stating to some of the reasons I desire to make clear and unquestioned my position in respect to a claim, which if it be true would absolutely preclude me from seeking the nomination for United States senator.

"I refer to the claim advanced on behalf of the senior senator from Tennessee to the effect that opposition to him is embarrassing to the war-time administration, and that his re-election is necessary to sustain our president in his efforts to bring the war to a successful conclusion. It is my desire to make clear and unquestioned my position in respect to a claim, which if it be true would absolutely preclude me from seeking the nomination for United States senator.

"I am under ordinary conditions the democrats of Tennessee would probably question the right of the president to make suggestions in respect to the re-election of a senator, yet we are not living the calm and peaceful security of ordinary times. These days of peril are fraught with danger, and the happiness of millions yet unborn in this, our country. At such a time who can doubt that the president would speak for his country and his administration with the administration embarrassed by opposition to the senior senator?

"While under ordinary conditions the democrats of Tennessee would probably question the right of the president to make suggestions in respect to the re-election of a senator, yet we are not living the calm and peaceful security of ordinary times. These days of peril are fraught with danger, and the happiness of millions yet unborn in this, our country. At such a time who can doubt that the president would speak for his country and his administration with the administration embarrassed by opposition to the senior senator?

"It is my desire to put this matter beyond question—I do not want, would not take, preferment at even the possibility of risk to the best interests of my country and my party. But until our great chief executive speaks in respect to the re-election of a senator, I am commissioned to speak for him, or to say that the re-election of the senior senator is essential to the plans of his administration or the public good, or that opposition to him will embarrass this war-time administration.

"Therefore seeing no reason of state, war or otherwise, which would justify an embarrassment to our party, or our government in seeking your suffrages, you will permit me at this time to briefly outline my views in respect to some of the great questions involving public interests.

"On the 17th day of January, 1918, the Knox county fuel administrator, Monahan W. Green, wired the senator asking to be advised principally as to whether or factories run by hydro-electricity

the senate of the United States, vote for any measure designed or the effect of which will be to shorten the arm of the president or weaken his just influence or deprive him of his constitutional powers and functions as the chief executive of this government.

"Such an attempt was made in the senate of the United States in July, 1917, when an amendment to the food control bill was adopted by a vote of 53 to 31, providing for a committee of congress to supervise the executive functions of the president in the conduct of the war, and in effect to control his actions as chief executive. Every vote in the negative was that of a democrat. The fifty-three affirmative votes comprised the entire republican membership of the senate voting on that amendment and a few democrats, including the present senior senator from Tennessee. That this amendment did not become part of the law was due to the efforts of administration leaders in both branches of congress, who in conference rejected the amendment from the bill, following the president's protest against it.

"In respect to this effort to shorten his arm and diminish his just constitutional powers the president, in a letter written to Congressman Lever—for publication—among other things, mildly said:

"The constant supervision of executive action which the proposed committee contemplated would amount to nothing less than an assumption, on the part of the legislative body of the executive work of the administration."

"During these times pregnant with the fate of democracy, while many arms are needed, these must be only one directing, responsible head—one chief executive, Woodrow Wilson.

Further Interference with Duties and Powers of President

"Just how far the senior senator is standing by the president may be further judged by his action in relation to the recent executive order designed to conserve the supply and regulate the distribution of fuel coal. I refer to the order recently issued by the National Fuel Administrator Garfield, approved by the president and authorized under an act of congress, designed, as shown by its title—

"To provide further for the national security and defense by encouraging the production, conserving the supply and controlling the distribution of food products and fuel."

"When notice was given that such an order would be issued, certain fault finders in the senate, after a few days' rest from checking the secretary of war, and realizing that their futile flutterings were understood and resented by the great body of patriotic citizens, protested and cried aloud the name of democracy. They said the country would be ruined by this executive order designed to carry into effect the true intent and spirit of the very law enacted to meet just such emergency conditions as confronted the country.

"Thereupon two resolutions were offered in the senate requesting but in effect demanding that the order be repealed so that, as stated in one resolution—

"Or, as stated in the other resolution—

"Until a thorough investigation shall be made, the necessity of the proposed action."

"So the senate wanted to investigate and debate, when it was manifest that people were freezing and the channels of commerce choked.

"After haggling and debating, and by its attitude delaying preparation for compliance with the order, the senate adopted the first resolution. The senior senator voted for it.

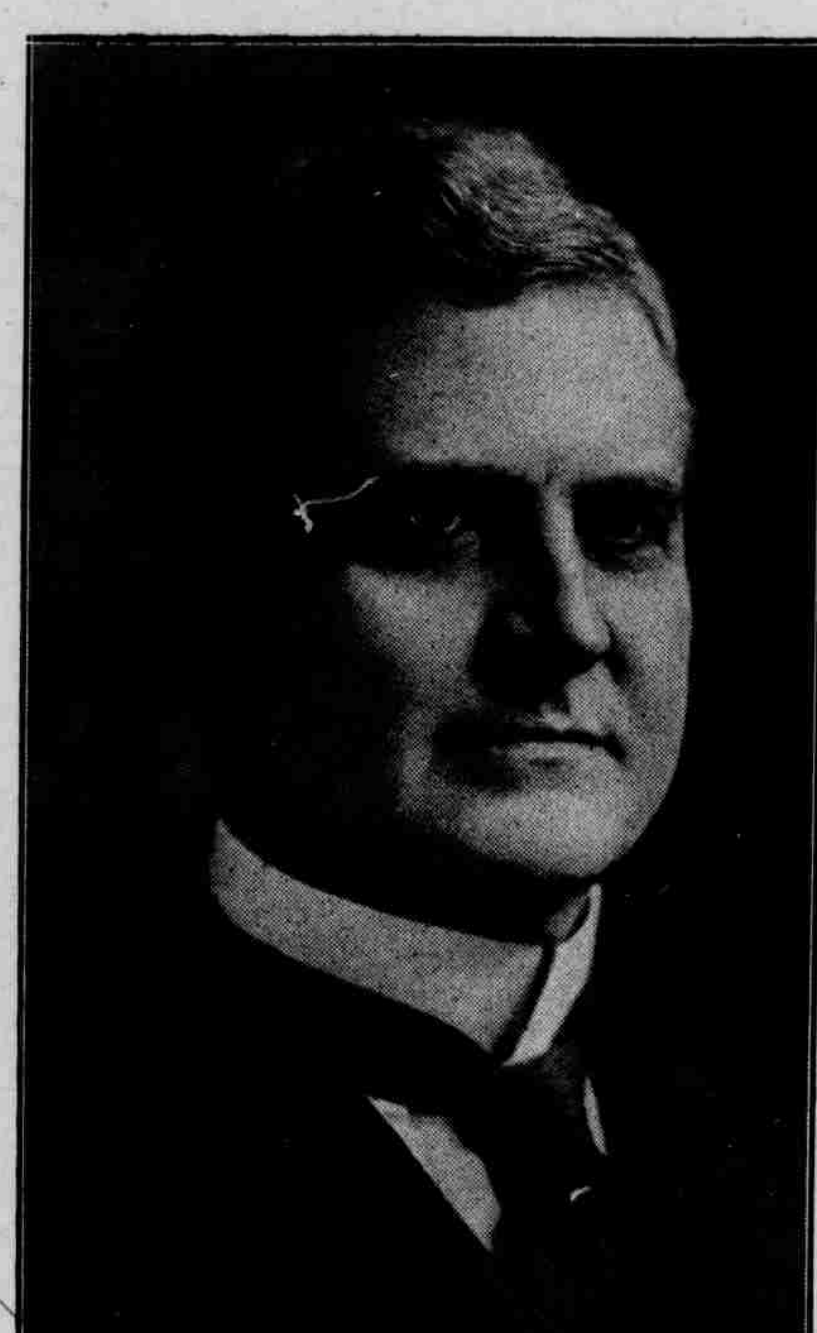
"What lawyer ever dreamed that the execution of an act of congress could be suspended by a resolution? Full power to meet the emergency was solemnly conferred on the president. But the faultfinders, without conceding that the president and his advisers, sworn to execute the law, might have information of conditions known to them, but which it might be unwise to disclose to the world and to the enemy, insisted on creating doubts in the public mind as to the necessity of the action of the president—because the order was in effect his executive act.

"So National Fuel Administrator Garfield was, according to press dispatches, hailed before a subcommittee of the senate and there forced to disclose that the order suspending the operation of such information of plants as were least essential to war preparation was not only for the purpose of conserving the supply and providing coal for domestic consumption, but also to secure coal for transports lying idle in our Atlantic ports and under for lack of coal to carry needed war materials and food and other supplies to our boys and allies across the sea.

"Haggling senate committees had already succeeded in disclosing to the enemy whatever of weakness or lack there may be in our war preparations. They compelled the disclosure that transports were unable to sail for lack of coal, and now if they should go but a few miles further and compel publication as to which of these transports are intended to carry our troops to France, or food and comforts to our boys already there, and then compel the secretary of the navy or the heads of the admiralty board to disclose when such transports will sail, they will have succeeded in giving all the information necessary to the ruthless enemy to enable him to make his submarines most effective.

"But his vote for the senate resolution above referred to, and the consequent aid in disclosing to the world the desperate condition and vital needs of our transports, are not the only acts of the senator in relation to this act of the president now approved by the vast majority of patriotic citizens of this country.

"On the 17th day of January, 1918, the Knox county fuel administrator, Monahan W. Green, wired the senator asking to be advised principally as to whether or factories run by hydro-electricity



GEN. CHAS. T. CATES

were within the operation of the order.

"After Mr. Garfield had been forced to proclaim to the world his act to the vigilant enemy and his spies in this country that our transports were unable to proceed, for lack of coal, on their way to our allies and boys in France, the senator replied to Mr. Green's telegram, and, as given to the newspapers for publication, after referring to the ruling exempting plants operated by hydro-electricity from the operation of the order, proceeded to volunteer the opinion that the coal was applied to any consumer of coal was illegal. He said:

"The order was made under the authority supposed to be given by section 25 of the food and fuel control bill. It is the opinion of lawyers here, in which I concur, that the section gives no control of the use of coal in the hands of consumers, but only the production, distribution and sale of it.

"What is the meaning of this attack upon the legality of the president's order? Certainly it could not have been intended to lend the great name and reputation of the senator to a suggestion that the order be not complied with or attacked in the courts? Such a course could only result in thousands freezing. In further convention of traffic and our transports continuing to remain useless, shutting off the carrying of supplies to our troops abroad, while the senate debated, lawyers quibbled and the slow course of litigation proceeded.

"We would impute no improper motive to the distinguished senator, but it is submitted to the judgment of a candid and patriotic people whether his action in the premises was encouraging to the president or helpful to the war preparations of the administration.

"No control over, fair provisions for retaking and a royalty upon each horsepower or developed power or energy should be incorporated in any plan providing for the development or exploitation of the public waters of the United States by private capital. Therefore, I shall favor only such measures having to do with grants or licenses touching the development of the waterpower of this country as will retain full control thereof in the interests of the general public, provide for retaking on fair terms and permit the use and appropriation of such waterpower only upon the payment of a fair royalty upon the electrical energy or power developed therefrom.

"It shall be my purpose to demonstrate that the one of the water bills pending in congress at this time and much exploited in this state as bearing the name of the senior senator, and which is intended to safeguard the interests of the public, and in my opinion, would result in utterly depriving the people of the power of the public waters, practically perpetual control thereof in private monopoly—without profit to the people and virtually at their expense.

"Section 1: That by reason of the existence of a state of war it is essential to the national security and defense for the successful prosecution of the war and for the support and maintenance of the army and navy to assure an adequate supply and equitable distribution, and to facilitate the movement of food, feeds, fuel, including fuel oil and natural gas, hereafter in this act called necessities; to prevent locally or generally scarcity, monopolization, hoarding, injurious speculation, manipulation and private controls affecting such supply, distribution and movement; and to establish and maintain government control of such necessities during the war."

"And then to put the matter beyond question section 1 contains the following provision:

"The president is authorized to make regulations and to issue such orders as are essential effectively to carry out the provisions of this act."

"That the executive order condemned by the senator was necessary to meet a grave condition—a dangerous emergency in now generally conceded, and as such it is approved; that it was within the plain mandate of the law, which the president was sworn to execute, seems apparent from even a casual consideration of its provisions. Again, I say, let us stand by the president.

Water Power Should Be Conserved

"Believing that the last great natural resources belonging to and remaining within the control of the people of this country, to-wit: the public waters, and the power capable of development therefrom, should be conserved for the public, I am utterly opposed to any scheme or plan designed or the effect of which will be to deprive the people of full control over that water power or to turn it over to private monopoly to be exploited for profit at the expense of the people of this country.

"In this connection it is not improper to observe that if our forefathers could have dipped into the future and if, in going to the public domain, state and national, they had reserved to the people all mineral interests therein, the royalties, omitting precious minerals, from coal and iron and zinc and copper and marble and oil would now go a long way toward defraying the expenses of this government.

"Full control over, fair provisions for retaking and a royalty upon each horsepower or developed power or energy should be incorporated in any plan providing for the development or exploitation of the public waters of the United States by private capital. Therefore, I shall favor only such measures having to do with grants or licenses touching the development of the waterpower of this country as will retain full control thereof in the interests of the general public, provide for retaking on fair terms and permit the use and appropriation of such waterpower only upon the payment of a fair royalty upon the electrical energy or power developed therefrom.

"It shall be my purpose to demonstrate that the one of the water bills pending in congress at this time and much exploited in this state as bearing the name of the senior senator, and which is intended to safeguard the interests of the public, and in my opinion, would result in utterly depriving the people of the power of the public waters, practically perpetual control thereof in private monopoly—without profit to the people and virtually at their expense.

More Ample Protection from Mississippi River at Government Expense

"The Mississippi river is not only a great natural highway, but is, in fact, a vast drainage canal carrying away the waters falling upon the higher and northern parts of this country and discharging them into the Gulf of Mexico along the lower reaches of the river, or in the Gulf of Mexico. The annual dam-

ages to property upon our western border from this great unshackled torrent run up into the millions of dollars. In my opinion, the lands in the states bordering upon this great national highway and drainage canal—over which the states have no sort of control—should be more amply protected from ravages by recurring floods, entirely at the expense of the general government.

Progressive Legislation for Labor

"Believing that labor, whether upon the farm or in the workshop, or in any of the forms of human activity, has the same right to protection under the law as does capital, created by labor, I shall favor such progressive legislation as may be necessary to place labor upon the same footing with capital in the matter of organization, and to assure it just recompense as the fruit of its efforts.

PROTECTION OF FARMERS

"The farming interests, constituting the backbone and reserve strength of this country, should be fostered and developed by the application of the best thought and practical experience of the age. As experience may show the necessity therefore, there should be additional legislation making adequate provision for working capital through loans on farms at rates of interest as usually obtain in cases of other borrowers of like responsibility, and securing such recognition of farmers' organizations as may be necessary to safeguard their interests and protect their products against the profiteer and private monopoly in the interest both of the producing farmer and the ultimate consumer.

UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING

"Believing that to be prepared for war is to safeguard the peace and happiness of our country, I am in favor of a system of universal military training.

"Whether this system should be inaugurated during the course and amid the complex conditions of the war may be a question. It might interfere with or so confuse plans now being worked out as to impede their progress or cripple their efficiency. But, in my opinion, at the earliest time consistent with the country's needs and interests universal military training should be made the fixed policy for national defense.

"Such a system, placing the sons of all classes rich and poor alike upon the same footing in respect of training and education, is the most democratic ever devised. Plans should be worked out providing not only for military training of our youths, but also permitting the carrying on, during such training, of vocational studies, fitting them for the duties of life—at the expense of the government, and which would be insignificant compared with the enormous sums necessary to carry on this war. Such course of training, being especially in teaching the discipline and the best methods of caring for themselves. Such a system would not be entirely novel to the people of Tennessee. Its principle was approved by our forefathers, who, early in the last century, enacted laws requiring Tennesseeans between the ages of 18 and 45 to undergo military training for a certain number of days each year. This system was in force in Tennessee until our Civil War.

"In my opinion it is not going too far to say that if universal military training had been established in this country ten years ago, and at the outbreak of the war in Europe there had been behind us and in reserve ten classes of the best young men of the country, trained in arms and fitted to care for themselves, with two or three classes in actual training, the Hun emperor would have hesitated long before he would have treacherously conspired against us or caused to be murdered our women and children and destroyed our property upon the free high seas of the world.

"I would not have you look on me as an alarmist, but I would not be true to myself or worthy of the high position at your hands if I did not say to you that in my opinion this war, into which we were dragged by a military despotism mad with the lust of conquest, has only begun.

"It is my deliberate judgment that no other nation has ever done more in the same length of time than has been done by this country within the past ten months to protect itself from a powerful, ruthless and conscienceless enemy. It may be true that some mistakes have been made, but let us remember that such is the history of self-governing people idealizing peace and unprepared for and abhorring war; and because we have not reached that attitude of efficiency in preparedness and equipment for war, attained by the enemy after a half a century of cunning, treachery and persistent preparation for world conquest, we must not grow over-critical, or feel discouraged because of conditions, nor hamper or discourage our great leader by captious doubts of querulous complaints, but stand ready to uphold his arms, steadfast in faith that his patriotism, wisdom and far-reaching statesmanship will lead through the shadows and dangers now besetting us into the sunshine and security of ultimate victory.

No Alarmist—But Uphold Arms of President

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Enforce Rigidly Laws Against Treason and Sedition

"Let our men and women in this country stand ready to back up our chief executive in a more rigid enforcement of the law against treason, sedition and the dark and cunning practices of the Hun enemy throughout this country.

Protect Our Boys in France from Enemy in Their Rear

"The frontiers of our country's security are today along the battle lines in France. There the young manhood of this nation—our bravest and best—will grapple, yea, are grappling, with the barbarous and brutal Hun that their mothers and wives and sisters may live secure and in honor at home—that their fair land may not be ravaged as has been unhappy Belgium; that American democracy may not be enslaved to pay the price of world conquest; that our autocracy, and that government of the people, for the people and by the people may not perish, but live, not only for their own security and happiness but also to point the way to freedom and security for the oppressed of all climes.

"And while the young men of our country are battling in far lands and on distant seas, let this slight essay for their sacrifices to give, and give, and give all that may be necessary to their support and comfort, and let us see to it that neither their fighting efficiency nor their comfort is endangered by the plots of alien enemies behind them in their own land, for we have cause to know that in each alien land there are men who sympathize there may be peril to our homes, to our sons on the battle fronts in France and to those keeping ceaseless vigil on the seas. Recent developments and disclosures by our government in relation to the machinations of Huns and their protectors living by thousands in our midst, and even who teach us to guard well against the alien enemy within our gates, who holds no faith in common with humanity, who is bound by no compact, however sacred; who professes friendship and practices deceit and treachery, and who in the name of his kultur would fill the world with rapine and bestiality and murder in their most horrid forms.

Must Be No Interference from Federal Officials

"Now a word more. There is much evidence and no little complaint that certain federal officials are showing great activity in all matters political in this state. Let me say that while every democrat has the right to express his opinion or sympathize there may be peril to our homes, to our sons on the battle fronts in France and to those keeping ceaseless vigil on the seas. Recent developments and disclosures by our government in relation to the machinations of Huns and their protectors living by thousands in our midst, and even who teach us to guard well against the alien enemy within our gates, who holds no faith in common with humanity, who is bound by no compact, however sacred; who professes friendship and practices deceit and treachery, and who in the name of his kultur would fill the world with rapine and bestiality and murder in their most horrid forms.

No Offices to Allure, but Submit Candidacy on its Merits

"And now, with neither offices to dangle before the worthy, ambitious and aspiring or to allure their support, nor a machine to overawe and even to oppose, I submit my candidacy upon its merits to the democracy of Tennessee, promising when elected not to become an office holder—a peddler in patronage—but to give not a scant half, but unremitting time and the best that is in me to the service of our state and to the duties of the high office to which I aspire.

"And, while I may not hope to equal the splendid achievement of Grundy, or Bell, or Harris, or Bate, or Carmack and that long line of senators who have reflected honor on our country, I have endeavored to equal their record in the brightest pages of the republic, yet by emulating these great exemplars in loyal and, if need be, self-sacrificing devotion and service to their country, it is my hope to make such a record for you and in your name as shall justify your confidence and support.

"CHARLES T. CATES, JR."

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